

NFPA® 1986

Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

2023 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
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NFPA® 1986

Standard on

Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

2023 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1986, *Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Tactical and Technical Operations Respiratory Protection Equipment and released by the Correlating Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 4, 2022, with an effective date of April 24, 2022, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1986 was approved as an American National Standard on April 24, 2022.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1986

In September 2012, the Standards Council responded to a new project request submitted by Daniel Rossos, Chair of the Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment. The request related to the use of respiratory protection equipment for emergency operations that did not involve structural firefighting. After its review, the Standards Council determined that there is a well-established technical need and a demonstrated demand for a standard addressing design, use, testing, and certification of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) not covered by the requirements of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services*.

The Standards Council also established a new Technical Committee on Tactical and Technical Operations Respiratory Protection Equipment and invited individuals to apply for membership, particularly from law enforcement, federal agencies, defense organizations, hazardous material incident responders, and related agencies to establish a balanced technical committee representing the needs and requirements of the end user community.

The 2017 edition of the standard specified the minimum requirements for the design (Chapter 6), performance (Chapter 7), testing (Chapter 8), and certification (Chapter 4) of new compressed breathing open-circuit SCBA and supplied air respirators (SAR) and for replacement parts, components, and accessories for non-structural firefighting devices.

For the 2023 edition, the cold temperature exposure conditions language has been revised for consistency with NFPA 1987. There have been updates and clarifications to various test methods, including chemical challenges. In addition, the definitions of *breathing air cylinder* and *cylinder* have been replaced with *breathing air pressure vessel* throughout the standard.

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IAFF Local 2881/CDF Fire Fighters, VA [L]
Rep. International Association of Fire Fighters

Jason L. Allen, Intertek Testing Services, NY [RT]
James B. Area, Chimera Enterprises International, MD [SE]
Joseph Arrington, San Antonio Fire Department, TX [U]
Roger L. Barker, North Carolina State University, NC [SE]
Cristine Z. Fargo, International Safety Equipment Association, VA [M]
Edmund Farley, Pittsburgh Bureau Of Fire, PA [E]
Diane B. Hess, PBI Performance Products, Inc., NC [M]
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Karen E. Lehtonen, LION Group, Inc., OH [M]
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Michael F. McKenna, Michael McKenna & Associates, LLC, CA [SE]
Douglas Menard, Boston Fire Department, MA [U]
John H. Morris, 3M Company, GA [M]
Amanda H. Newsom, UL LLC, NC [RT]
Stephen R. Sanders, ASTM/Safety Equipment Institute (SEI), VA [RT]
Jeffrey O. Stull, International Personnel Protection, Inc., TX [M]
Jonathan V. Szalajda, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, PA [E]
Robert D. Tutterow, Jr., Fire Industry Education Resource Organization (FIERO), NC [U]
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William A. Van Lent, Veridian Ltd., Inc., IA [M]
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Bruce H. Varner, BHVarner & Associates, AZ [M]
Rep. International Fire Service Training Association
Dick Weise, Los Angeles County Fire Department/Safer, CA [U]
Harry P. Winer, HIP Consulting LLC, MA [SE]

Alternates

David T. Bernzweig, Columbus (OH) Division of Fire, OH [L]
(Alt. to Rick L. Swan)
Louis Carpentier, Innotex Inc., Canada [M]
(Alt. to William A. Van Lent)
Robin B. Childs, US Department of Defense, VA [E]
(Alt. to Beth C. Lancaster)
Daniel Glucksman, International Safety Equipment, VA [M]
(Alt. to Cristine Z. Fargo)
Kenneth Hayes, Boston Fire Department, MA [U]
(Alt. to Douglas Menard)
Judge W. Morgan, 3M Scott Safety, NC [M]
(Alt. to John H. Morris)
Gary L. Neilson, Sparks, NV [U]
(Alt. to Robert D. Tutterow, Jr.)

Jeffrey Peterson, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), PA [E]
(Alt. to Jonathan V. Szalajda)
Kevin M. Roche, Facets Consulting, AZ [M]
(Alt. to Bruce H. Varner)
Russell Shephard, Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council, Australia [SE]
(Alt. to David G. Matthews)
David P. Stoddard, Michael McKenna & Associates, LLC, CA [SE]
(Alt. to Michael F. McKenna)
Grace G. Stull, International Personnel Protection, Inc., TX [M]
(Alt. to Jeffrey O. Stull)
Jian Xiang, The DuPont Company, Inc., VA [M]
(Alt. to Diane B. Hess)

Nonvoting

Robert J. Athanas, SAFE-IR, Incorporated, NY [SE]
Rep. TC on Electronic Safety Equipment
Christina M. Baxter, Emergency Response Tips, LLC, FL [U]
Rep. TC on Hazardous Materials PC&E
Tricia L. Hock, ASTM/Safety Equipment Institute (SEI), VA [RT]
Rep. TC on Emergency Medical Services PC&E
Jeremy Metz, West Metro Fire Rescue, CO [U]
Rep. TC on Special Operations PC&E
Stephen T. Miles, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, WV [E]
Rep. TC on Respiratory Protection Equipment
Chris Farrell, NFPA Staff Liaison

Brian Montgomery, US Department of Justice, DC [E]
Rep. Tactical and Technical Operations Respiratory Protection Equipment
Jay L. Tarley, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, WV [E]
Rep. TC on Wildland Fire Fighting PC&E
Tim W. Tomlinson, Addison Fire Department, TX [C]
Rep. TC on Structural and Proximity Fire Fighting PC&E

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, performance, testing, and certification of protective clothing and protective equipment manufactured for fire and emergency services organizations and personnel, to protect against exposures encountered during emergency incident operations. This Committee shall also have the primary responsibility for documents on the selection, care, and maintenance of such protective clothing and protective equipment by fire and emergency services organizations and personnel.

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Christina M. Baxter, Emergency Response Tips, LLC, FL [SE]

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Amanda H. Newsom, UL LLC, NC [RT]

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Rep. National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health

Marco Tekelenburg, Mine Safety Appliance Company, PA [M]

Tim West, Wilcox Industries, MT [M]

Alternates

Jason L. Allen, Intertek Testing Services, NY [RT]
(Voting Alt.)

Adam Bilger, Mine Safety Appliance Company (MSA), PA [M]
(Alt. to Marco Tekelenburg)

D. Mark Bledsoe, US Federal Bureau of Investigation, VA [U]
(Alt. to Brian J. Clifford)

Robin B. Childs, US Department of Defense, VA [E]
(Alt. to Beth C. Lancaster)

Mark Ciampaglio, US Army- Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), MD [RT]
(Alt. to Daniel J. Barker)

Denice Young Durrant, UL LLC, NC [RT]
(Alt. to Amanda H. Newsom)

David Hodson, DAH Consultant, United Kingdom [M]
(Alt. to Robert Sell)

John H. Morris, 3M Company, GA [M]
(Alt. to Judge W. Morgan)

Gregory W. Sackman, Seattle Police Department, WA [U]
(Alt. to Craig Adams)

Jarrett Seal, National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB), FL [U]
(Alt. to Randy Sterett)

Robert R. Stein, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, (NIOSH), PA [E]
(Alt. to Jonathan V. Szalajda)

Erin W. Valliere, Marine Corps Systems Command, VA [U]
(Alt. to Gary Beals)

Stephanie Marie Wilson, Naval Surface Warfare Center, FL [SE]
(Voting Alt.)

Nonvoting

Lana A. Nieves, US Department of Labor, DC [E]
Rep. Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Chris Farrell, NFPA Staff Liaison

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on respiratory protection equipment and selection, care, and maintenance of respiratory protection equipment for non-firefighting emergency services operations including, but not limited to, tactical law enforcement, confined space, and hazardous materials operations, during incidents involving hazardous or oxygen-deficient atmospheres. This Committee does not cover respiratory protection equipment for firefighting operations addressed by the Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment.

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